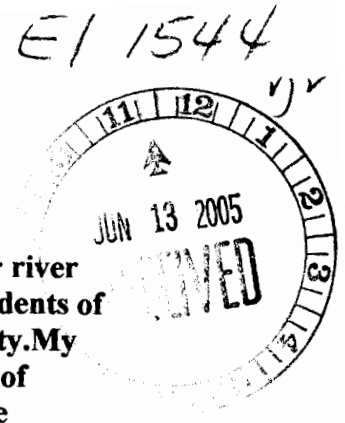


To Whom it may concern:

June 5, 2005



I would like to submit my comments regarding the proposal on the powder river basin expansion as to the serious financial impact it will have on many residents of Winona Minnesota including my wife and I who are homeowners in this city. My understanding that the number of trains running directly through the city of Winona would be double or triple the number presently being run. Just the assumption that this might happen has already affected the real estate situation in Winona as people are well aware of what living conditions will be like for any homeowners who are in close proximity to the railroad tracks. Many of these people will find their homes to be unsellable and others will lose a great amount of their property value. Many of these homeowners are in their advanced years and have been in their homes for many years. Their homes for some are their security. If you allow these trains to increase you will inflict some very serious financial problems on people who can ill afford it. Sound barriers and cash allowances to protect your home against noise and vibrations will not work. Homes as far away as three blocks from the tracks can feel the vibrations. Also the fact that they want to run coal trains through this city should concern whoever makes the final decision as this trains coming through here now are pulling over 100 cars and there is no way you can prevent a significant increase of coal dust that will be dispersed as they go through Winona. Winona is unique in that the tracks run right through the center of the city not on the outskirts. Something to think about is that if you run 60 or even 40 trains a day that would be between 4000 to 6000 cars vibrating through this city in very close proximity to some very decent homes. As for ourselves, we have invested a considerable amount of money into our home and now being in our 70s we plan on eventually selling our home when we can no longer take care of a house and if our property values decrease as I'm sure they will, it will create an unwanted and unexpected hardship on us. I find it hard to comprehend that the surface transportation board or any other government agency would even consider such a move. I wonder has anyone ever come to Winona and sat in anyones living room or backyard when the trains come through. I think not. I would hope that before you wreak financial havoc on a lot of undeserving home owners that you find a suitable alternative to hauling coal. I hope that I do not wake up some morning and find I own a home with no resale value. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my Great concern about the future of our home values.

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